

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/EP:RHIMUS:SJB

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L/EB:SBOND (DRAFT)

EB/IFD/OIA:TBRODERICK (DRAFT)

EA/LC:MHENDERSON (DRAFT)

SCS:MBURKE (INFO)

----- 104252

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 144358

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, BGEN, LA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CLAIMS BY AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN

REF: VIENTIANE 4118

1. GIVEN THE UNSETTLED CONDITIONS IN LAOS, THE CONCERN OF LOCAL AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN REGARDING POSSIBLE NATIONALIZATION OR EXPROPRIATION IS UNDERSTANDABLE. IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES, WE SUGGEST YOU ADVISE AMERICAN FIRMS TO MAINTAIN ACCURATE INVENTORIES OF THEIR HOLDINGS AND AN EVALUATION OF PHYSICAL ASSETS IN PRESENT CONDITION IN A SAFE PLACE, PREFERABLY OUTSIDE OF LAOS. WE DO NOT FEEL IT NECESSARY THAT ANY FORMAL LISTING BE SUBMITTED TO THE EMBASSY OR THE DEPARTMENT AT THIS TIME.

2. IT IS OF COURSE NOT POSSIBLE TO PREDICT PRECISE COURSE OF EVENTS SHOULD AMERICAN PROPERTY ACTUALLY BE SEIZED WITHOUT PROPER COMPENSATION. SHOULD SUCH ACTION ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE WE SUGGEST THAT AMERICAN FIRMS IN-

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VOLVED THEN CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT (OFFICE OF INVESTMENT

AFFAIRS, EB/IFD/OIA) FOR MORE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE. IN THE
MEANWHILE, YOU CAN ASSURE LOCAL BUSINESSMEN THAT WE ARE
CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SITUATION AND WILL DO ALL THAT WE
CAN TO SAFEGUARD THEIR LEGITIMATE INTERESTS. KISSINGER

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